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I have at last answered the request made by Harlan Cleveland that we try to induce the British Government to make a further subscription to UN bonds. I sent him a message in these terms:

> "1. In further reference Embtel, have now been informed that HMG will not make additional UK pledge. Feels this would only be stopgap measure and could not submit it with hope of success to Parliament.
> 2. Would be interested in knowing of any financial plan proposed by US for long term solution.
> 3. It was informally suggested that when Secretary sees Lord Home next week he might wish to mention matter to Home."

Dean Acheson's speech continues to resound. It has now been officially denied in Washington that any clearance was given it by the State Department or the White House.

I was impressed this afternoon when meeting Mr. Laslo Halasz by his views on what might be done with the proposed national cultural center in Washington. He has been active since the beginning in the Lincoln Cultural Center in New York. He feels that Washington will not for a long time be able to sustain first class operatic and theatrical companies, or a superior symphony orchestra, on its own, but will have to rely on imports from other places. He also feels, as I do, that if top quality performances are to be attracted there, these projects will have to be subsidized in part by the Federal Government.

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E and I left by train at 5:30, to stay at Lady Hesketh's in Northamptonshire.

December 8, 1962 - Saturday

It is about 16 miles from Bletchley station to Easton Neston. There was a delightful group of young people staying there today. Out in the rain this morning to watch the operations of the men who form a syndicate for pheasant shooting on this property. I hung about on the fringes, walked a little with the beaters, and

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To the office. How familiar it is to find everyone attending meetings. Reported in to Bill Burdett; found a heavy concentration of interest on Skybolt; reams of paper are circulating on the subject.

Talked to Bob Bowie. He is against the proposal to give Polaris to the British and makes a cogent case.

Saw George Ball on the same topic. It cannot be settled until Secretaries Rusk and McNamara return from Paris.

Lunched with Mac Bundy at the 1925 F Street Club. He was relaxed and, as always, agreeable. We were more or less in accord on how the Skybolt affair [redacted] might be handled.

In the afternoon, Ball had a meeting, attended by Messrs. Harriman, Talbot, Casen and Forrestal of the White House, and Ambassadors Galbraith and McConaughy. Galbraith is now variously known as "The Vice-Roy", "The Air Marshall", and the "Long Ambassador". He is often pungent in conversation, pugnacious in presentation, and always thoroughly self-assured. He pontificated against the State Department, the British (Sandys in particular, whom he detests), the Commonwealth, and wants the United States to play the dominant foreign role in India. He said the British have little standing there, whereas we are immensely popular and respected.

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I was surprised at this view, for I believe it to be incorrect. He made the remarkable statement that Nehru [redacted] told him he had seriously considered withdrawing India from the Commonwealth, but had refrained from doing so out of sentiment for the late Edwina Mountbatten.

Ken is certainly not easy to deal with; I only hope his judgment is as good as his repartee--I doubt it.

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